

Class of 1976 50th Reunion Newsletter

Alumni Weekend June 4-7, 2026

January 2026 Edition



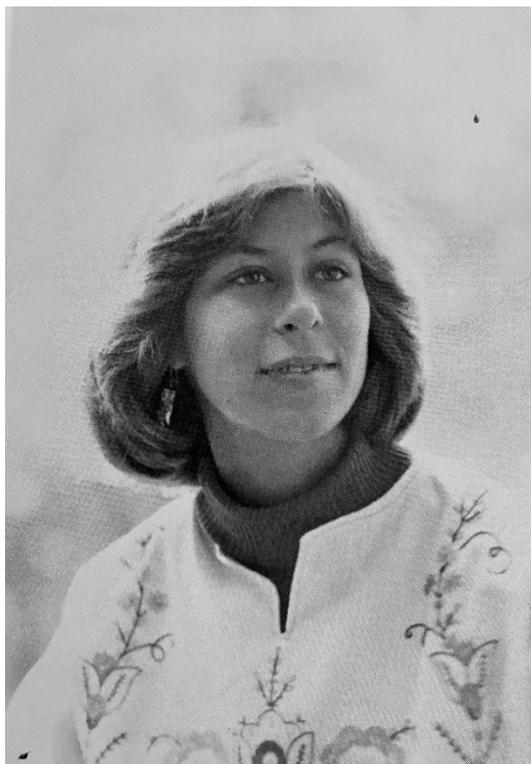
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As you know, Juniata College invites our Class of '76 to return to campus in June 2026 to celebrate our 50th reunion. Did you remember to save the dates and book reservations? ... **and** have you responded to our questionnaire and submitted your **BIO** and your then & now **PHOTOS** for the **Class of 1976 50th Reunion Booklet**? If you're not able to attend the Reunion in June, it would still be great to have you participate in the class Booklet!

We are preparing the Reunion Booklet for distribution in June and we need your help! The booklet is a collection of bios, then & now pictures, and anything else you wish to share. This is YOUR REUNION BOOKLET so we would love to have as many classmates as possible respond to the **Questionnaire**, prepare your bios, and send in photos. This wonderful keepsake offers memories and stories for you to treasure. Be part of the celebration! If you can, send in your info by the end of January (later will be accepted, of course, but the sooner we receive the info, the easier it will be to make an awesome booklet). Access the questionnaire here: <https://forms.gle/cihnQBXrn1LQmBEAA> or by using the QR code to the right. If you have any questions, reach out to Karen Orr (bkorr77@gmail.com).



Cherie (Dettmar) Stites shared her **Photos** and **Bio** for this January newsletter:



THEN



NOW

Bio – Cheri (Dettmar) Stites '76

I'm a Jersey girl having grown up in Ewing, NJ. I currently reside in Skillman, NJ, just north of Princeton.

My late husband John and I raised our daughter, Kyle in this part of NJ with a few years in Indianapolis and Denver due to John's job. They were great places to live but we always gravitated back to NJ.

I knew I wanted a smaller college experience where I could continue to study Spanish and learn Russian. Juniata fit the bill and after visiting the campus and meeting with my Spanish professor Mrs. Heller and the Russian professor Dr. George Dolnikowski, I was sold and a very memorable and wonderful four years ensued.

After college I worked in merchandising/buying for Mercantile Stores in Manhattan. However, I soon realized this was not the field for me and after six months I joined the Howe Insurance Group in Princeton as the Personal Lines Manager for their four offices throughout NJ. I left that position when we moved to Indianapolis and took on the most gratifying job of all as a stay-at-home mom. Those were the best years of my life. Once Kyle was in high school, I became a Realtor and for the next 20 years I enjoyed helping clients make their dream of home ownership a reality.

I enjoy reading, rescuing former racing greyhounds amongst other pets, going to the gym, gardening and traveling. My most favorite destination thus far is the Galápagos Islands. This year I plan to visit Puerto Rico, Europe and the South Pacific along with my annual trip to my happy place - Bermuda. In between I frequently visit my daughter and her family in NH and love spending time with my two beautiful granddaughters. They are my joy!

I'm looking forward to celebrating our 50th reunion and Juniata's 150th anniversary! I can't wait to catch up with everyone!

(The Class of 1976 50th Reunion Committee offers a special acknowledgment to Cherie for her incredible gift of \$50,000 which matched Class of '76 gifts dollar-for-dollar on Giving Tuesday. Thank you, Cherie!)

JUNIATA MEMORABILIA?

The Reunion Social Committee wonders what items of Juniata Memorabilia do you still have after 50+ years? If it is important to you, it will undoubtedly bring smiles and conversation to our Reunion. PLEASE start looking NOW so you can bring items in June. There will be a place in our Hospitality Room in Ellis Hall designated to display just such items! Did you save correspondence while you were at Juniata? Did you "borrow" a tray from Ellis for use in the snow? Do you even have any special clothing you wore in the 70's? Do you have your syllabus from "MODES"? Do you have tickets or bar napkins from special days?

In addition, do you have any photos from events/ days at Juniata between 1972 and 1976? Do you have any REUNION photos? Remember... we did not have memories saved on our phones then.... they may be in a Scrapbook somewhere or in Kodak envelopes. Please look to see what you can share to complete our story of our journeys at Juniata. Help all of us reminisce and make this space "Our Space"!

Contact Nancy (Nordberg) Glaeser (jonord117@gmail.com), member of the '76 Reunion Social Committee, and let her know what you plan to bring!

Will you attend the 50th Reunion? Look who's planning to come, so far!

Jerry Blecker
Lynn Chaplin
Cindy (Gilbert) Clarke
Guy Cooper
Ann Dunlavy
Mary Beth (Campbell) Emmons
Bruce Erb
Dan Ereditario
Mark Francischetti
Carla Frisch
Nancy (Nordberg) Glaeser
Steve Holsinger
Elaine (Becker) Jones

Tony Kamnikar
Dennis Katawczik
Charles Kerekes
Cathy (Crouse) Kunkel
Don Leauber
Diane (Dawson) Lindstrom
John "Dave" MacVeigh
Don Martin
Jack McCullough
Janet Mercincavage
Bob Orr
Karen (Lotz) Orr
Nancy Preston

Ruth Randall
John Robinson
Claudia (Pierson) Simmons
Sam Sirianni
Jeff Small
Brad Sterl
Cheryl (Dettmar) Stites
George Trim
Mike Trim
Cindy (Hill) Valko
Mike Werley
Jeff Wood
Charlie Zorger

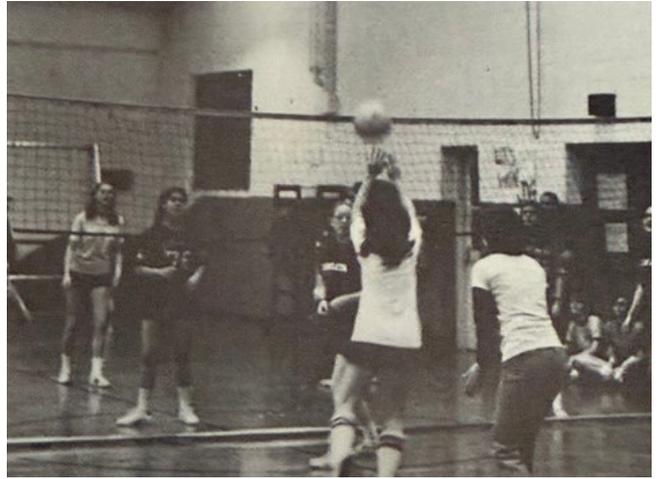
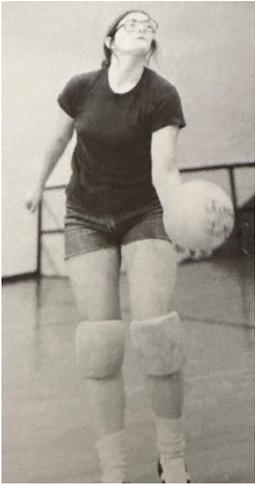
2006 - Remember this Reunion?

How many folks in the photo below can you name? Check your answers at the end of the newsletter!



“Then and Now”

Juniata has come a long way with women’s sports over the years but none as successful as Women’s Volleyball! Back in 1976, we had Intramural Volleyball. Anyone who enjoyed bouncing the ball off their head could join and they were probably the best player!



Fast forward to 2025 and Juniata now has an All-Star Collegiate Women’s Volleyball team who has won National Championships, not once; not twice; not three - but five times!! The team was crowned the NCAA Division III National Champions in 2004, 2006, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Congratulations on putting us on the map!!!



Responses to our Memory Question: What song brings back memories, and why?

Brad Sterl wrote, “Actually it is 2 albums Steely Dan ‘Pretzel Logic’ and the Eagles ‘One of These Nights’. **Jim Hunter** and I would have countless beer fueled arguments over which was the better band. Neither of us ever gave in LOL.”

Ruth Randall recalls two memories: “Lou Reed’s ‘Hey Babe, Take a Walk on the Wild Side’ was the theme song with which we introduced our weekly radio show, which we called ‘The Velvet Underground.’ **Tricia Neal** was our smooth-voiced hostess, while I managed the record albums and song selections. Helping always was **Toni Morris, Kyle Messick**, and definitely a host of others. The show was sadly a bit short lived, as we had a dance party at the radio station during what became our last show.”

and

“Steve Miller’s ‘The Joker’ hit #1 on Billboard’s Hot 100 on Jan. 11, 1974. Our senior year, our intramural women’s softball team (consisting of our band of roommates - **Toni Morris, Kyle Messick, Tricia Neal, Sue Blum** and others) had the nerve to call our team the ‘Midnight Tokers.’ We even made jerseys with our names. Not only that, we won the top team that year!”

Hey everyone, the question remains open if you want to share your song memories!

Next Memory Question: What number was your PO Box, and who was your Box Mate?

Send comments to Nancy at nancyep76@hotmail.com; we’ll add them to the next newsletter. It’s fun hearing from you!

50th Reunion Next June: Thursday through Sunday, June 4-7, 2026

When to Register for Alumni Weekend - Online registration for Alumni Weekend events will open in mid March.

Book Reservations Early – Reserve a room using Juniata’s special room blocks and rates at several hotels and motels in the area. Or check out vacation homes, inns, resorts, cottages, and cabins that previous groups have enjoyed. For more information on the hotel blocks and links to alternative housing websites, visit: <https://www.juniata.edu/alumni/alumni-events/alumni-weekend/accommodations.php>. Limited on-campus residence hall accommodations are available during Alumni Weekend and can be reserved online in the spring.



Our 50th class reunion is shaping up to be an extraordinary gathering coinciding with Juniata College’s 150th anniversary celebrations. This will not be your standard reunion. A variety of unique events are in the works and even a few surprises. Here is a taste of the weekend’s events and festivities. We hope to see you all then!

Thursday, June 4

- Morning
 - Golf at the Huntingdon Country Club
- Afternoon
 - Pickleball open court
- Evening
 - Class of 1976 Reunion Welcome, happy hour & cook-out, ‘70s music on fireplace patio!

Friday, June 5

- Morning
 - Class of 1976 Breakfast – a great time to share memories!
 - Emeriti Faculty Panel
- Afternoon
 - Emeriti Faculty Lunch
 - Pickleball open court
 - Forum on the Future with President Troha
- Evening
 - All Class Reception
 - All Class Dinner
 - Class of 1976 50th Reunion President's Reception

Saturday, June 6

- Morning
 - Guided Peace Chapel Hike
 - Alumni Awards Assembly
- Afternoon
 - Picnic on the Quad
 - Raystown Field Station Open House
 - Campus Tour
- Evening
 - Class of 1976 50th Reunion Photo
 - Class of 1976 50th Reunion Social and Dinner

Sunday, June 7

- Morning
 - Class of 1976 Farewell Breakfast

2006 - Remember this Reunion? Answers

Seated First Row L-R:

Mark "Baldino" Francischetti
 Tim Reimer
 Phil Klippert
 Brad Sterl
 Nancy Preston
 Cindy "Cheshire" (Custer) Mitchell
 Gail (Morgan) Habecker

Standing Second Row L-R cont:

Libby (Kough) Beiler
 Janet Mercincavage
 Claudia (Pierson) Simmons
 Cathy (Crouse) Kunkel
 Linda Keech (deceased)
 Cindy (Gilbert) Clarke
 MaryBeth "Mac" (Campbell)
 Emmons
 Susan (Kaminskas) Peters
 Dale Hoover
 Bruce Erb

Standing Second Row L-R cont:

Lynn Chaplin
 Lee Flinner (deceased)
 Mary (Stauffer) Flinner
 Don Martin
 Perry Habecker
 Ruth Randall
 Rich Balch
 Karen (Philhower) Griffiths

Standing Second Row L-R:

Guy Cooper
 Ann Dunlavy Molosky

Any Questions? Feel free to contact our '76 Reunion Committees

Legacy Committee

Brad Sterl
bsteryl@bradsterlassociates.com

Social Committee

Guy Cooper gcoops3@gmail.com
 Cheryl (Dettmar) Stites
cdettmarstites@gmail.com

Communications Committee

Cindy (Hill) Valko, geocin@aol.com



Celebrating 150 years of Inquiry, Integrity, and Service